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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. THUNE].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 30, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable JOHN R. THUNE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of May 12, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 25 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate extend beyond 9:50 a.m.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California [Ms. SANCHEZ] for 2 minutes.

THE DRUG COURT PROGRAM GIVES THOSE CHARGED WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE CRIMES A FIGHTING CHANCE

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell my colleagues about a justice program that is working. The drug court is a program in use across our country to help give those charged with substance abuse crimes a fighting chance to make the difficult transition from a life of drug abuse to that of productive members of our society.

I worked hard to obtain Justice Department funding to keep this program going in Orange County, and I am glad that I was successful. The Orange County drug court is one of 160 drug courts throughout the Nation that are making a difference in helping to keep our courts from getting engulfed in a sea of cases.

Very simply put, this program allows some of those individuals who are charged with drug offenses the option of completing the drug court program which consists of individual specific community service and rehabilitation.

I recently went to the graduation of some of these people in the drug court program, and we affect not only individual's lives but entire families. Of the 14 who graduated that day, there were probably about 50 family members who had tears in their eyes that day to see the change that had overcome those people that they loved. Those who choose the option are placed in a highly structured program, and they are subject to intense supervision. Their successes are praised, and their failures are dealt with quickly and appropriately.

This program works. It makes our justice system more efficient, but, more important, it rebuilds peoples' lives. If any of my colleagues want to learn about this unique, effective drug court program, I would be happy to work with them to promote drug courts in their own areas.

PRESIDENT OPPOSES CITIZEN OVERSIGHT OF IRS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from California [Mr. ROGAN] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, as a new Member of Congress, I had the chance to go home during the break and talk to constituents throughout my dis-

trict. One of the things that I was pleased to report back home was the fact that Congress, acting in a bipartisan fashion, was able to deliver the first balanced budget in almost 30 years, and the first broad-based tax cut in almost 16 years. That is good news. It was good news to deliver, and judging from the response of my constituents back home in California, it was good news to receive.

But the fight is far from over, because if we are going to be able to deliver meaningful tax reform to the people of this country, tax reform that does not last just for one Congress but will last through the years, we are going to have to look at restructuring, and perhaps abolishing, the tax collection agency known as the Internal Revenue Service.

There is an exciting debate that is about to occur in Congress, and I hope that it will be on the radar screen of every taxpayer and every citizen. We in Congress are going to debate whether we should move to a flat tax as proposed by our Republican Majority Leader DICK ARMEY, or move to a consumption tax, essentially a national sales tax, as proposed by the Ways and Means chairman, the gentleman from Texas, Mr. BILL ARCHER, and the gentleman from Louisiana, Mr. BILLY TAUZIN, and others. That that will be an important debate, because it will significantly change the process of tax collecting in America. Either one of those alternatives will be preferential to the status quo.

Unfortunately, the IRS over the years has become an agency that has gone beyond its limited role of being a collection agency to fund constitutional government, and instead has been used time and time again as an agency to reward political friends and oppose political enemies.

During the last week here in Congress, we have held hearings on the IRS, and have heard horror stories

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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